

PROCLAMATION **ARBOR DAY** MAY 5, 2017

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is a holiday set aside for planting trees and is an annual tradition in North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, trees make direct and visible contributions to our quality of life by providing clean air and water, wind protection and erosion control, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, essential wood and food products, and beautiful landscapes; and

WHEREAS, trees contribute to a vision of safe, healthy communities with vibrant, walkable main streets and downtowns that attract and help retain a skilled workforce; and

WHEREAS, planting trees is a great way to leave a living legacy for present and future generations to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, 67 percent of North Dakota residents live in Tree City USA communities with an established foundation to plant and care for their trees because of the many benefits they provide. Pride in public trees leads to more engaged residents who feel good about the place they live and work, and shows visitors and prospective citizens that trees, conservation, and the environment are an important part of life in the community; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Forest Service and Arbor Day Foundation will honor the City of Watford City by planting a Prairie Expedition American elm tree at Kent Pelton Nature Park on May 5 in honor of their achievement of 25 years as a Tree City USA community.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 5, 2017, **ARBOR DAY** in the State of North Dakota.

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ATTEST:

Alvin A. Jaeger Secretary of State